

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
L-03 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OIC-02 /074 W
-----181909Z 065800 /47

P R 181741Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4040
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
RUCFMOXAMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 3388
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08234

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, UK
SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE:
DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND
FCO

REF: A) STATE 102600
B) LONDON 8088
C) LONDON 8130

1. EMBASSY E/C MIN ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR ATTACHE MET
WITH MAJOR DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND FCO OFFICIALS
INVOLVED WITH ILO MATTERS YESTERDAY (MAY 17) AS
INSTRUCTED IN REF A. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
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THESE INCLUDED JOINT PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY JOHN
GRANT; NIGEL FORWARD, UK GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO THE ILO;
AND MR. THATCHER, DEPUTY SECRETARY; AT THE FCO, EVAN
LUARD, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY; AND JOHN SYMONS,
FCO UN DEPARTMENT.

2. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT REACTION: GRANT SAID HMG

IS "ANXIOUS TO SEE THE U.S. REMAINING IN MEMBERSHIP" AND NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD MADE THIS SAME POINT TO PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY. AS FOR CRITICAL ISSUES AT THE 63RD CONFERENCE, HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S "GENERAL THINKING" IS IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE USG. ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE: DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT IYRQEWFFN THAT THE SITUATION WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT AT THE CONFERENCE. SINCE THE EARLIER EFFORTS TO REOPEN THE MATTER WERE MORE EASILY BLUNTED AT THE PROCEDURAL LEVEL OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND THE ILO OFFICE. ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT: DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG, THE AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION ABOUT APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AND ARE CONFIDENT THERE WILL BE AGREEMENT AMONG THEM BEFORE THE CONFERENCE CONVENES. HOWEVER THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT IS AWARE THAT THE AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 IS A VERY EMOTIVE QUESTION AND WILL BE RESISTED AT THE CONFERENCE. STRUCTURE: UK, LIKE USG, HAS NO DESIRE WHATSOEVER TO "HEAT UP THE ISSUE", ALTHOUGH STRUCTURAL CHANGE CANNOT BE RESISTED FOR ALL TIME AND IN FACT IS FAST BECOMING A HIGHLY CHARGED ISSUE. THE MORRIS CHAIRMANSHIP: THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT ALSO SUPPORTS MORRIS.

3. FCO REACTION: LUARD SAID THERE IS NO BASIC DIFFERENCE OF ATTITUDE BETWEEN THE USG AND HMG ON THE ILO, SIMPLY TACTICAL. HE ADDED: "WE WOULD VERY DEEPLY REGRET IT IF YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO WITHDRAW. THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITHIN THE ILO WHICH ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTLY DUE TO YOUR INITIATIVES. THIS LEVERAGE WOULD BE LOST IF YOU WITHDREW. YOUR DEPARTURE WOULD HELP TO DESTROY THE ILO AND WOULD LEAVE OTHER COUNTRIES IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. MOREOVER, YOU CAN USE YOUR THREAT TO WITHDRAW ONLY ONCE. WE HOPE ENOUGH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO ALLOW YOU TO STAY, AND WE BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS (WHICH LED TO YOUR LETTER OF INTENT) ARE NOW MORE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ILO MEMBERS AS THEY ARE IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES."

4. LUARD COMMENTED THAT SOME OF THE BROAD ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE USG AND OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE EROSION OF TRIPARTITISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO WHICH THE E/C MIN REFERRED, WERE LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH NOT OF SPECIFIC FOCUS AT THE 63RD CONFERENCE. NONETHELESS, HE SAID, "WE ARE PLUGGED IN WITH YOU IN DEALING WITH TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND THE FREEDOM TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY." ON ARTICLE

17 AMENDMENT: LUARD NOTED AGREEMENT BUT AS IN THE
DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OFFICIALS
SAID THAT THE ONLY PROBLEM "IS THAT OF WORDING." ON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08234

THE MORRIS CANDIDACY: LUARD SAID HMG IS "VERY MUCH
IN FAVOR." HOWEVER, IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THE
FCO DISAGREES WITH THE USG VIEW THAT THIS ELECTION
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A SPECIAL CASE AND PREFERS
THIS TO BE VIEWED AS "NORTH AMERICA'S TURN." STRUCTURE:
ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE ON APPROACH TO STRUC-
TURE INsofar AS THE 63RD SESSION IS CONCERNED, LUARD
APPEARS SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT THE NEXT STAGE
OF DISCUSSION ON STRUCTURE WOULD BE. WE EXPLAINED
THAT THE USG WISHES TO KEEP THE STRUCTURE DISCUSSION
"LOW PROFILE" AND TO UTILIZE LOW-KEY INFORMAL CONSUL-
TATION TO BE RESUMED TOWARD THE END OF 1977.

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5. COMMENT: NOT SURPRISINGLY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE FCO ARE PRETTY MUCH ON LINE AS TO HMG'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF THE ILO, I.E., AS REFLECTED IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE 63RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. RUNNING THROUGH OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL UK ELEMENTS (REFS B AND C) IS A SINGLE THREAD, WHICH PERHAPS CAN BE SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS: WE WANT YOU, THE US, TO STAY IN. WE WILL COOPERATE WITH YOU IN DOING SO -- ESPECIALLY AT THE 63RD CONFERENCE -- AND AGREE FUNDAMENTALLY WITH YOUR POINT OF VIEW IN BROAD TERMS AND WITH YOUR LISTING OF PRIORITY PROBLEMS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE FEEL THAT THE ILO, WARTS AND ALL, IS A VALUABLE ORGANIZATION WHICH WITHOUT YOUR PRESENCE IS LIKELY TO DIE. DON'T EXPECT THESE PROBLEMS TO DISAPPEAR OVERNIGHT, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BEAR A LONG-STANDING GRIEVANCE, AS THEY DO ON THE MATTER OF ILO STRUCTURE.

6. AN AIDE-MEMOIRE DETAILING THE USG POSITION WAS LEFT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WITH THE FCO.

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Message Attributes

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